

Florida House Of Representatives



Shaniece Cooper, a student at Frank C. Martin K-8 Center, serving as a House Page.

Governmental Contact Information

City of Florida City (305) 247-8221
City of Homestead (305) 224-4400
Town of Cutler Bay (305) 234-4262
Village of Palmetto Bay (305) 259-1234
Commissioner Katy Sorenson (305) 375-5218
Commissioner Dennis Moss (305) 375-4832
State Senator Larcenia Bullard (305) 668-7344
US Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (305) 225-6866

2010 Election Dates

Primary: August 24, 2010 | General Election: November 2, 2010

2010 HONORS

Homestead/Florida City MLK Parade Grand Marshal
Young Democrats' Outstanding Leadership and Service Award
FASA's Next Generation Leader Award
FEA's Friend Of Education Award
Honorary City Year Member

Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Appropriations

Policy Areas.....	Appropriations All Funds
Health and Human Services.....	\$28,482.3M
Education.....	\$22,515.2M
Natural Resources, Transportation, Environment, Growth Mgt.....	\$9,778.6M
General Government.....	\$4,488.1M
Judicial.....	\$462.4M
Grand Total.....	\$70,377.4M



2010-2011 Appropriations Highlights for House District 118



Homestead Forestry Station.....	\$60,000
Goulds Coalition.....	\$100,000
Richmond Heights Resource Center.....	\$100,000
Miami Dade County Public Schools....	\$2,337,471,592
Florida International University	\$429,134,549
Miami Dade College.....	\$224,307,257
Baptist Health.....	\$31,722,523
Jackson Memorial.....	\$327,065,753

Representative Bullard: Protecting Your Interest



Representative Dwight M. Bullard 118 House District

Dwight.Bullard@myfloridahouse.gov

Council/Committees: Membership

- ◇ Education Pre K-12 Appropriations Committee
- ◇ Education Pre K-12 Policy Committee
-RANKING MEMBER
- ◇ Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee

District Office:

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Legislative Assistant:

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REPRESENTATIVE *Dwight M.* Bullard

Florida Legislative Update

Dear friends and neighbors:

Representing your interests in the Florida House of Representatives continues to be a welcomed challenge and a rewarding privilege. I appreciate your vote of confidence and I enjoy serving House District 118.

As many of you know, while much of the country is recovering from the recession, Florida continues to face many economic hurdles. Therefore, during the 2010 legislative session, my colleagues and I focused much of our attention on economic development and job creation. In addition, we confronted a number of issues important to District 118, including Florida's budget, education, and healthcare of Floridians.

I was pleased to continue to serve as the Ranking Member on the PreK-12 Policy Committee. I also serve on the House PreK-12 Appropriations Committee, and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

I hope you find this legislative update to be a useful source of information on the 2010 session. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the issues, please call my office or send me an email. As always, if there is anything that I can assist you with, please contact my office.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you.

Best Regards,

State Representative Dwight M. Bullard
House District 118





Miami-Dade School Board Member Dr. Larry Feldman, Principal Dr. Linda Amica-Roberts and Faculty members of Coconut Palm K-8 Academy accept State Farm grant

university tuition hikes of up to 15 percent, just as it cuts scholarship awards under Bright Futures.

I am particularly disappointed by the Legislature’s decision to pass Senate Bill 6, a measure that drew widespread attention and criticism from across the state for how it would have altered public school teacher benefits. I voted against and debated against this bill in committee and on the house floor. Thankfully, Governor Crist vetoed this bill, which in my view, would have punished our school teachers and harmed education in our state.

Also this session, Governor Crist signed Senate Bill 4, a bipartisan measure that raises education standards and improves accountability and advances some of the reforms touted this year by me. Senate Bill 4 phases out the high school Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in math, science and writing, and it introduces end-of-course exams in Algebra 1, Geometry and Biology 1.

Florida has made great strides in improving education since voters passed the Class Size Reduction, and schools are less crowded. In 2002, the average classroom for PreK-3 was 23, today it is 16. The average classroom size for grades 4-8 was 24, today it is 19; and the average classroom for grades 9-12 was 24, today it is 22. This November, voters will be asked to revisit the class size goals. I believe that the plan going back to the voters to change the class size amendment risks unraveling the progress and weakening class-size gains.



Students from the Children's Trust visiting the State Capitol

nesses for the next two years. These increases would have resulted in layoffs for Floridians.

The Legislature also passed a \$200 million jobs package (over 3 years) that is designed to make Florida more economically competitive and to encourage companies to invest in our state and hire Floridians.

Throughout the session, I supported various efforts that help Florida consumers, including a reinstatement of Florida’s back-to-school sales tax holiday that benefits Florida’s families. The tax holiday provides a one-time, three-day sales tax holiday for clothing and other school supplies purchased from August 13-15, 2010.

These dollars belong to Florida’s taxpayers who deserve some of it back as they stretch their hard-earned dollars to ensure their children have needed school supplies. Additionally, the tax relief measure will help spur growth in our vital retail economy. This year’s back-to-school tax holiday is expanded to include, among other items, pens, pencils, notebooks, notebook paper, rulers, glue, binders, lunch boxes, construction paper, markers and folders.

These are tough economic times, but we must provide for roads and bridges, courtrooms, protect our natural resources, provide for law enforcement and prisons, and fund our schools so that we may soon have a world-class education system for students and educators.



Freshmen Legislators on Opening Day

The people’s trust is violated too often through abuse and corruption by elected officials and other public servants. I also believe improvements are needed to ensure that state laws and budgets are written in a democratic manner that is consistent with Florida’s government-in-the-sunshine traditions.

During the 2010 session, the Legislature considered several important measures to combat public corruption, including a bill to allow for the prosecution of public servants – elected and appointed – who purposefully fail to disclose a financial interest or a future financial benefit.



Coral Reef Senior High Students in the House Chamber

compact with the Seminole Indian tribe also helps to balance the budget with a projected \$433 million in revenues for the state.

I am saddened that the budget is projected to lead to the loss of potentially thousands of jobs throughout Florida due to the decision to shift \$160 million from the state’s transportation trust fund to other spending. I opposed that decision.

The budget also makes cuts to a highly successful program that helps new mothers considered at risk for abusing or neglecting their children. A \$10 million cut to the Healthy Families program amounts to more than a third of its budget. Roughly 3,500 of more than 8,700 families are expected to be dropped from the program.

Healthy Start coalitions, which serve at-risk pregnant women and infants, will see a cut of \$2.6 million. Additionally, contributions to county health departments are cut by \$10.5 million.

In my opinion, the budget doesn’t hold education harmless. While it increases the annual per-student funding by \$1.22, school officials say their expenses, including insurance, retirement and utilities will outstrip that increase. In terms of overall school funding, this budget presents the second-worst per student funding level since 2006. What’s more, the budget includes whopping new university tuition hikes of up to 15 percent, just as it cuts scholarship awards under the Bright Futures program.

It’s also of serious concern to me that funding for nursing homes and hospitals are cut, including a 7-percent reduction in state payments for the care of indigent patients.

To subscribe to Rep. Bullard's monthly e-newsletter, please send an email to Mario.Bailey@myfloridahouse.gov and type "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Add Representative Bullard on Facebook!